I

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1971

REPORT PRESENTED BY

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

AREA No. 5 · SOUTH WEST DEVON

DARTMOUTH and TOTNES Municipal Boroughs

BUCKFASTLEIGH KINGSBRIDGE SALCOMBE	Urban Districts	KINGSBRIDGE PLYMPTON ST. MARY TAVISTOCK TOTNES	Rural Districts

JOHN WILDMAN
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., (LOND.)
Medical Officer of Health

Telephone: Plymouth 36644

Public Health Department
Council Offices
8 Plymbridge Road
Plympton, Plymouth
PL7 4LG

With the Compliments of the

Medical Officer of Health

URBAN DISTRICT OF SALCOMBE

REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1971

P r e f a c e

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Annual Report of the Health of the District during 1971. Included in this Report is the Report of your Public Health Inspector.

Statistics

The Registrar General's population estimate of 2,310 persons is based upon the preliminary report of the 1971 census. There were 27 births during the year giving a Standardised Birth Rate of 15.6 which is nearly up to the National Average of 16.0 per thousand population. There were 30 deaths giving a Standardised Rate of 9.2 per thousand population which is well below the National Rate of 11.6. There were no infant deaths.

Environmental Health

No major outbreaks of illness occurred. The great news is that work has continued on the new Sewerage Scheme. Work should be completed during 1972.

I wish to thank Members of the Council and my Colleagues on the Staff for all their help during the year.

JOHN WILDMAN

Medical Officer of Health.

September 1972.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JOHN WILDMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

PART-TIME DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER HEALTH

MARY E. BUDDING, M.B. B.Ch., DSc., D.P.H.., M.F.C.M.

LOCAL OFFICE

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
SALCOMBE, Devon. Tel: SALCOMBE 2281/2

CENTRAL OFFICE - MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Area No. 5, South West Devon,
Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
8 Plymbridge Road,
PLYMPTON, Plymouth PL7 4LG Tel: PLYMOUTH 36644

MEDICAL OFFICER'S CLERK

Miss G. PROWSE Tel: PLYMOUTH 36644

SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR - SALCOMBE

G. ROTHWELL, ESQ., M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.

Tel: SALCOMBE 2281/2

CLERK TO THE SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mrs. G.D. KILLICK (Resigned 11th August 1972).

Miss J. MURDOCH (Appointed 19th June 1972)

Tel: SALCOMBE 2281/2

Matters affecting Public Health are dealt with by the Public Health Committee and by the full Council.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30066189

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1971

Table 1

Figures for 1970 are shown in brackets

POPULATION:

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Salcombe Urban District

2,310 (2,420)

Natural increase or decrease	-3	(-17)
Migration in or out	-107	(+17)
Total increase or decrease	-110	(NIL)

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area of Salcombe Urban District in Acres

1,297

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books

1,119 (1,114)

Number of Houses per acre	0.862	(0.859)
Number of Persons per acre	1.780	(1.865)
Number of Persons per House	2.065	(2.172)
Dwellings owned by the Council ...	145	

Rateable Value of the District 1st April

£131,597 (£128,596)

Sum represented by a New Penny Rate

£1,222 (£509) (Old Currency)

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1971.

Table 2

Figures for 1970 are shown in brackets

BIRTHS:

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... 15.6 (9.8)

Area Comparability Factor for Births ... ... 1.33(1.33)

Number of Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Total	17	10	27
Legitimate	14	10	24
Illegitimate	3	0	3
Number of Stillbirths	1	0	1

DEATHS:

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population ... 9.2 (10.3)

Area Comparability Factor for Deaths 0.71 (0.71)

Number of Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
All ages - Total	17	13	30
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	0	0	0
Number under 4 weeks of age	0	0	0
Number under 1 week of age	0	0	0

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births ... 0.0 (111.0)

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Birth Rate 16.0 (16.0) Death Rate 11.6 (11.7)

Infant Mortality Rate 18.0 (18.0)
(Infants under 1 year of age)

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: Cases Notified During 1971

No diseases were officially notified during 1971 but one case of Lobar Pneumonia was informally notified.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951

Sect. 47 of 1948 Act.

No statutory action was necessary for the compulsory removal of persons in need of care and attention.

Sect. 50 of 1948 Act.

No burials took place under this section of the Act.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1971

		Male	Females	Total
B19 (4)	MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, INTESTINE	2	1	3
B19(11)	OTHER MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS	3	1	4
B26	CHRONIC RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE	1	0	1
B28	ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE	3	1	4
B29	OTHER FORMS OF HEART DISEASE	1	2	3
B30	CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE	1	4	5
B46(6)	OTHER DISEASES OF CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	1	1	2
B31	INFLUENZA	1	0	1
B32	PNEUMONIA	1	1	2
B33(1)	BRONCHITIS AND EMPHYSEMA	2	0	2
B46(7)	OTHER DISEASES OF RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	0	1	1
B46(9)	OTHER DISEASES, GENITO-URINARY SYSTEM	0	1	1
BE49	SUICIDE AND SELF-INFLICTED INJURIES	1	0	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES		17	13	30

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. HOSPITALS

Salcombe is served mainly by the Plymouth and District Hospital Management Committee. There are large general hospitals at Plymouth and the South Hams Hospital at Kingsbridge, which is a general practitioner hospital, has 13 beds. Maternity beds and Geriatric beds are provided at Broomborough Hospital, Totnes, under the Torquay Hospital Management Committee.

2. COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Devon County Council provides the following services:-

Domicillary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, an ambulance service, vaccination and immunisation procedures.

3. COUNTY COUNCIL SOCIAL SERVICES

The Area Director of Social Services operating from the Family Welfare Centre, Pomeroy House, Bridgetown, Totnes, Telephone:TOTNES 3665, is responsible for providing a social work service under the Children's Acts, the Mental Health Act 1959 and the National Assistance Acts, to the elderly, the mentally ill, the physically handicapped and homeless persons and families. The Social Services Department also administers the Home Help Service, the Social Work Service to Schools, the Occupational Therapy Services and Residential Homes and Centres.

4. LABORATORY SERVICES

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water and ice-cream, are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Plymouth. The Chemical analysis of water is undertaken by Public Analysts at Exeter, and also by the South West Devon Water Board.

5. MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES

There are three general medical practitioners and one dentist at Salcombe. There is also a HEALTH CENTRE in Shadycombe Road, Telephone: SALCOMBE 2284

SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT of the Public Health Inspector for the year 1971

WATER SUPPLIES

The whole of the Salcombe Urban District received water supplied by the South West Devon Water Board. Regular samples of the supply are taken by the Board to ensure its wholesomeness. There has, therefore, been no cause for any action to be taken by the Department in this connection.

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There has been no change during the year with reference to the disposal of sewage. The existing arrangements are as follows:-

Batson Area: Untreated sewage from Lower Batson is discharged on to the foreshore near Batson Green.

Salcombe: Untreated sewage discharges from eighteen outfalls along the foreshore between Island Street and Woodcot.

North Sands: Untreated sewage discharges at a point on the foreshore adjoining the Castle.

South Sands: Untreated sewage is discharged at a point near Splat Cove.

During the whole of the year work continued on the new sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Salcombe. This consists of the construction of a high level intercepting sewer for the upper part of the town, storage tanks on land adjoining the Creek Car Park, the laying of a trunk outfall sewer from these tanks to terminate at a point in the centre of the estuary at the south end of the town. Comminuted sewage will discharge on an ebb tide and it is expected that there should be a considerable improvement during 1972 in the condition of the foreshore along the town centre.

In connection with the sewerage works a new link sewer has been laid from Onslow Road to Devon Road which should eliminate the occasional flooding that has taken place in the Coronation Road area of the town.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection of domestic and trade refuse throughout the district has been satisfactorily maintained throughout the year. Refuse is collected weekly from all the premises in the area and daily, twice or three times per week, from hotels and business premises on request. This service is greatly appreciated by hotels and food shops whose facilities for storage is very limited.

The use of paper sacks has continued and these and their holders are supplied to many hotels and shops etc., in the district. They have considerably improved the collection service and conditions

under which refuse is stored prior to collection. The service had also been extended to boats in the harbour.

The existing arrangements whereby refuse is tipped at Molescombe Quarry in conjunction with adjoining Authorities, has continued very satisfactorily. The volume of refuse increases annually, and the present vehicle and staff are just able to cope with current demands particularly during the summer months when these are at the greatest. During the year periodic collections of bulky refuse are also collected when a request is made for this to be done.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Routine inspections are made throughout the year of food premises in the district and, where necessary, informal action is taken to ensure compliance with the Food and Drugs Act and the Food Hygiene Regulations.

The standard of food hygiene is, on the whole, satisfactory. Seasonal staff are engaged during the summer months at hotels and other business premises, many of whom have no previous knowledge or experience of food hygiene. It is not possible to inspect all the hotels and guest-houses during the year, the many duties carried out by your staff usually results in Food & Drugs inspection being considerably cut down but, when possible, inspections are made in conjunction with other matters when advice is given to food handlers and improvements obtained.

Routine inspections of food shops and restaurants are also made as often as possible and it is pleasing to note the co-operation one receives from many of the occupiers of these premises.

Samples of ice-cream are taken from the retail suppliers. These were reasonably satisfactory but where necessary advice on sterilisation and cleaning was given, particularly with regard to soft ice cream machines.

Small quantities of unsound food have been condemned after being voluntarily surrendered. This is mainly tinned foods which are obviously unfit.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

Reinspections have been made of premises covered by the provisions of this Act, from time to time. Shops and Offices in Salcombe usually employ very few staff and any contraventions of the Act are dealt with on an informal basis.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT - STATUTORY NUISANCES

It is pleasing to note that very few complaints are made to the Council of statutory nuisance. Any matter which is reported is usually dealt with on a personal and informal basis, and results in the nuisance being abated with the least possible delay.

It has not been necessary to take any formal action in this respect.

CARAVAN SITES CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

There is only one licensed camping site within the Urban District and the conditions imposed in granting the licence have now been complied with. Periodical inspections are made to ensure that the camp is maintained in a satisfactory manner. There are 40 caravans and 10 tents.

Practically the whole of the Urban District is within an area covered by an Article 4 Direction under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act and regular inspection of the district are carried out to ensure camping is not taking place within the areas covered by the Direction.

HOUSING

The Housing conditions of the district are satisfactory - there being no unfit houses.

The Council makes Grants available for the provision of standard amenities in those houses that lack these facilities but only a very small number of grants are given annually as most properties are already provided with these.

The number of applicants on the waiting list for Council dwellings is fairly constant and it is not expected that there is a need for further Council house development providing that the number of Council dwellings available for letting is not reduced.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

The following is a summary of information required in respect of the year 1971. A total of 26 inspections was made in respect of 33 premises listed in the Factories Register.

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

(i) Factories without Mechanical Power (Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6)

Number on Register	NIL
Inspections	NIL
Written Notices	NIL
Occupiers prosecuted	NIL

(ii) Factories with Mechanical Power (Section 7)

Number on Register	18
Inspections	15
Written Notices	NIL
Occupiers prosecuted	NIL

(iii) Other Premises under the Act
(Section 7)

(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, Works or Engineering Construction, but Excluding Outworkers' Premises)

Number on Register	14
Inspections	14
Written Notices	NIL
Occupiers prosecuted	NIL

2. Cases in which Defects were found ... ... NIL

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK
(Sections 133 & 134)

There are no registered Outworkers.